(b) Government has earmarked Rs. 23 crores in the IX Plan under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the conservation and development of forests in Assam.

Use of LPG as fuel

435. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whehter the Ministry of Environment an Forests is pursuing with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas the matter for use of LPG as fuel in motor vehicles, to avoid pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has written to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Surface Transport on the use of LPG auto fuel.

Revision of forest policy

436. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to revise country's Forest Policy; and

(b) what are the salient features of the Forest Policy of Maharashtra and the steps taken by Government to save the valuable forest resources, including wild life of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no separate forest policy of Maharashtra. National Forest Policy, 1988 is being implemented in Maharashtra which has the main objective to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance by conserving the natural forests of the country. State Government has taken steps necessary for protection and development of forests through the involvement of local people and by creating a network of national parks and sanctuaries.

Ninth Plan allocation for protection of forests in North-East

437. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for protection of environment and forests in the North Eastern Region, State-wise, in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the measures contemplated to be taken during the period of the Ninth Five Year Plan to save the forest products from wanton destruction?